CHAPTER SEVEN

SOME EARLY HISTORY OF TAMAROA

The Tamaroas and four other Indian tribes belonged to a confederation which was called the "Indian Confederacy". These Indians frequented this part of the country in which Tamaroa is located and were constantly in battle with the Shawnee Indians at Six Mile Prairie. After hundreds of braves were killed and seven hundred women and children were carried away by the Iroquois tribe to Mississippi, their numbers decreased considerably. They finally joined the Cahokias and soon lost their identity.

The town of Tamaroa is located in the Southwest part of Township four, south of range one west. Except for woodland areas along the creeks and streams, much of the area was originally overgrown with tall prairie grass, growing to a height that a horse could hide in. The Indians often burned the grass to drive out game that sheltered therein.

The first settlers in Tamaroa were the parents of Judge E. T. Rees of Cutler. They settled in 1815 near present day Rees Creek, which supplies (or did) water to the DuQuoin city reservoir.

In 1825, the Foster family came and the Hammacks from Virginia came in 1828. Other families continued to drift into Tamaroa, Browns, Blands, Johnsons, etc, during the "40's" and "50's", and about 1866 or so William Carroll Stockton and his wife and children came. His brother, Lowery, came about this time also. By the 1880's, Tamaroa was becoming a thriving community.

On May 14, 1855, Tamaroa was platted by deputy county surveyor, Nathan Holt; the main purpose for doing so being the railroad. Mr. Holt also served at the town's postmaster, as well as the station agent. Before Tamaroa was platted as a village, there was a log cabin town extending from the southern half of the present village and slightly south, which dated back to 1828 and known as Appleton. Of course, all of these cabins have long since disappeared.

There was no river for transportation and roads were practically impossible to travel during many months of the year, so the coming of the railroad was a great breakthrough for communication. The Chester and Tamaroa Coal and Railroad Company built a railroad from Tamaroa to Chester in 1872. This railroad became known as the Iron Mountain Chester and Eastern Railroad and was later extended to Mount Vernon and leased to the St. Louis Coal Railroad Company. It was then operated by the Missouri Pacific. When the Illinois Central Railroad was being surveyed, Mr. B. G. Roots persuaded the surveyors to change the location so it would pass his home, which was located south of Tamaroa. By this decision, the railroad passed through Tamaroa, as well.

When the Illinois Central Railroad came through Tamaroa, Colonel R. B. Mason asked Mrs. Nelson Holt and Mrs. B. G. Roots to name the station which had been set up by the railroad. They agreed to do so. In their attempt to choose a suitable name, they first chose "Kiawkashaw" after the tribe of Indians who had formerly lived in this general area. Later they decided to change the name to"Tamaroa", which was the French version and much simpler to pronouce. At that time the name was pronounced "Tammarias" and sometimes was spelled that way.

The first religious denominations meeting in Tamaroa were Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist, in 1858, 1859 and 1874 respectively. Mr. James Walker and Rev. Barr established the Methodist Church and held their first meetings at the home of Benjamin Hammack. Mr. Walker also conducted the first Sunday School class which met with much opposition from the settlers.

The Bland school house which was built about 1832 and located four or five miles north of Tamaroa was credited with being the first school of Tamaroa. B. G. Roots started a boarding school in his home south of town and was recognized as one of the outstanding teachers of his time. The first free school was taught in the second story of Miller's butcher shop. This was about 1860. Mr. A. M. Anderson was the teacher and taught a term of three months. The first school building was built at the site of the present grade school in 1861 but was destroyed by fire. Soon after, a new school with four rooms was built; an addition of two rooms was later added.

The first dry goods store of Tamaroa was operated by Mr. Nathan Curlee on his farm about four miles north of town in 1834. Mr. Curlee was a very prominent man of his day, for in addition to operating his farm and store, he also was a minister and served as postmaster.

Residents of the Tamaroa area got their milling done at Stilley's Mill which was located north of town near the Washington County line. Fifteen bushels of corn was the maximum the mill could produce in a full day's work. In 1836, William Christian operated a mill approximately two and one half miles northeast of town. This eased the work load of Stilley's mill and was a little more convenient for the people of the local area.

Tamaroa soon had a number of business establishments. Two mines, hiring thirty men, got out one to two hundred tons of coal daily. Four doctors in town alleviated the need to go to DuQuoin for medical help. From 1840 until the early 1900's Tamaroa was the chief trading center of an area having a radius of twenty miles.

During the Civil War, the town seemed to take both sides of the conflict. There were slave holders as well as the "underground railroad" which ran almost parallel to the Illinois Central Railroad. Mr. Roots helped over a hundred slaves to freedom by this route. The strongest pro-Southern organization was the "Knights of the Golden Circle" led by John Teague. He had the members meet and drill regularly at the Hampleman home and at

other locations. Opposing this group were the members of the "Union League of Tamaroa".

Lincoln and Douglas both stopped in Tamaroa. Mr. Douglas got off at Tamaroa to catch a stagecoach to Benton, while Mr. Lincoln continued on to Central City and the state fair that was being held at that time.

Tamaroa has not always been the lazy little town that it is today. It has had moments which would match tales of terror that have been told of other towns of its day. Some of these events were these: during the Civil War, a Mr. W. S. Hawks was dragged from his bed at two o'clock in the morning and taken to the depot where some forty soldiers were waiting to take him to Washington. He was imprisoned in the Old Capitol for six weeks with about four hundred other prisoners. He was then released without charge or trial. It is believed that the Union League conspired to do this because Mr. Hawks declined to follow their orders.

Another event took place on the school grounds about 1868. As a negro was walking up the tracks from DuQuoin to Centralia, he was caught and tied behind the carriage driven by a prominent local church deacon. He was dragged to the school and then hanged. Since this happened on a Saturday night, and since another "good" church goer felt that the sight might be repulsive to the ladies as they went to church the next morning, he is said to have given the local drayman seventy-five cents to cut down the body and cremate it. The body was burned along with a pile of brush.

During the first World War, citizens of Tamaroa who were of German descent were subjected to such cruelties as being dragged out of bed in the middle of the night, forced to kiss the American flag, and made to promise they would buy more Liberty bonds. They were also threatened with tar and feathers.

Then back in June of 1881, William Watts, constable of Tamaroa, was murdered on Tamaroa's main street. His murderer, James Vaughn, was captured by Mr. Corgan, who ran out in his stocking feet, seized and disarmed Vaughn as he was fleeing. Mr. Vaughn was hanged in Pinckneyville on June 16, 1882. If space would permit, many other tales could be told.

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Kimzey House Near Tamaroa

Historic Home Hid Slaves

By Mary Reifschneider
Of The Southern Illinoisan

Calvin Ibendahl couldn't have picked a better home for his bride seven years ago than the old Kimzey place, south of Tamaroa on Rt. 51.

The old Kimzey place as area residents call it, was built in 1854 or 1856. It has become a fascinating home for Mrs. Ibendahl, a former history teacher, to rediscover and gather facts and artifacts about the home's original owner, B. G. Roots and life in pre-Civil War Southern Illinois.

Benajah Guernsey Roots was a pioneer educator and abolitionist who moved from New England to Illinois in 1837. Father Roots, as he was commonly called, settled first in Shawneetown and then moved to a farm south of Tamaroa.

Log Cabin

There he built a log cabin that served both as his home and as the first school in the area. He operated Locust Hill Academy in his home from 1839 to 1846 when he took charge of the Sparta Seminary, where he remained until 1851.

One of Roots' early students was John A. Logan, Murphysboro native who became a general in the Civil War.

Roots stopped teaching briefly in 1851 to do survey work for the Illinois Central railroad. Mrs. Ibendahl said he was responsible for routing the IC from Centralia to Tamaroa.

Free School Law

Following the completion of the railroad work, he began lobbying for passage of the Free School Law of 1855. Father Roots is also given credit for helping start the Illinois State Teachers Association in 1853 and served once as the group's president.

Roots lobbied in favor of the normal schools in Illinois and helped secure passage of the law that established Southern Illinois University. In 1865 he was appointed to the Illinois board of education and remained on the board until his death in 1887.

As an abolitionist Roots became part of the underground railroad in Illinois.

The second cabin Roots built on his Tamaroa farm had a hollow brick wall to hide runaway slaves. His third home, Locust Hill Mansion, with its 12 large rooms provided ample room to hide slaves.

Cisterns

Mrs. Ibendahl said one of the three water cisterns in the basement was never used, and the Ibendahls found a large hole under the floor in one of the barns Roots built that could have hidden slaves.

Old rumors say an underground tunnel was also dug somewhere on the original 1,200-acre farm.

Roots used his influence to have the railroad curve north of Sunfield and take it by Locust Hill. Mrs. Ibendahl said this is possibly where runaway slaves got off trains for sanctuary in the Roots' home.

Other buildings on Roots' farm also housed runaway slaves. Mrs. Ibendahl said the runaways who came to the Roots' home were from Missouri. They came into Illinois at Chester, and were taken to Sparta and then to Locust Hill. The next stop was Richview.

Abolitionist Roots wasn't too popular with his neighbors. Once Tamaroa residents threatened to tar and feather him, but he disappeared for a few days, Mrs. Ibendahl said.

Some of the runaway slaves returned to the Roots' farm after the Civil War and built homes. Some are buried on a wooded area of the farm.

For allowing the railroad to go across his land, Roots and his descendants, the Kimzeys, were allowed to stop the train and ride it to Tamaroa.

According to old stories, Mrs. Kimzey, Roots' daughter and a semi-invalid, had the train stop at Locust Hill when she wanted to go to Tamaroa. Mrs. Kimzey, so the story goes, had her rocking chair put on a flatcar and rode in the open to Tamaroa.

Locust Hill was a stock farm where pure bred horses and registered cattle and hogs were raised. Roots also planted 40 different kinds of trees on the farm. Mrs. Ibendahl said 38 different kinds still remain.

Roots turned over Locust Hill to his son-in-law, Walter Kimzey, and moved to Little Rock, Ark., during the Civil War. He established the First National Bank in Little Rock.

Roots later returned to Locust Hill, where he died in 1887.

The Kimzeys kept the farm until 1905. The house has not been altered very much. An elevator has been removed and bathrooms added where the shaft was.

A wall between the front parlor and library was removed before the Ibendahls moved in. The large room is now a meeting room for the Perry County Historical Society.

Historical documents and artifacts the society owns are housed there. The room also contains a rocking chair that belonged to Roots, and a portrait of Roots and a painting of his second house.

In rummaging through the attic, Mrs. Ibendahl has found two of the original fireplace fronts the house once had. She was able to restore one, and has it in a bedroom.

She has also found some of the original inside window shutters which she is now using.

Relatives of Mrs. Rosamond Kimzey Forester, Roots' youngest granddaughter, found a box containing old ledgers, pictures and newspapers with a note written by Roots explaining that the box is a "temporary deposit, part of the things I thought might be wished for future relics to show the children."

Mrs. Ibendahl has refurnished the house with antiques from the area. While working in a garden where the first Roots cabin stood, Mrs. Ibendahl found some old coins and a china head of a doll and arm, which she has on display in the meeting room.

Mrs. Ibendahl has antique furnishings in all the bedrooms. One room, originally used as a clothes closet and storage room, now houses a school room, complete with old maps and desks.

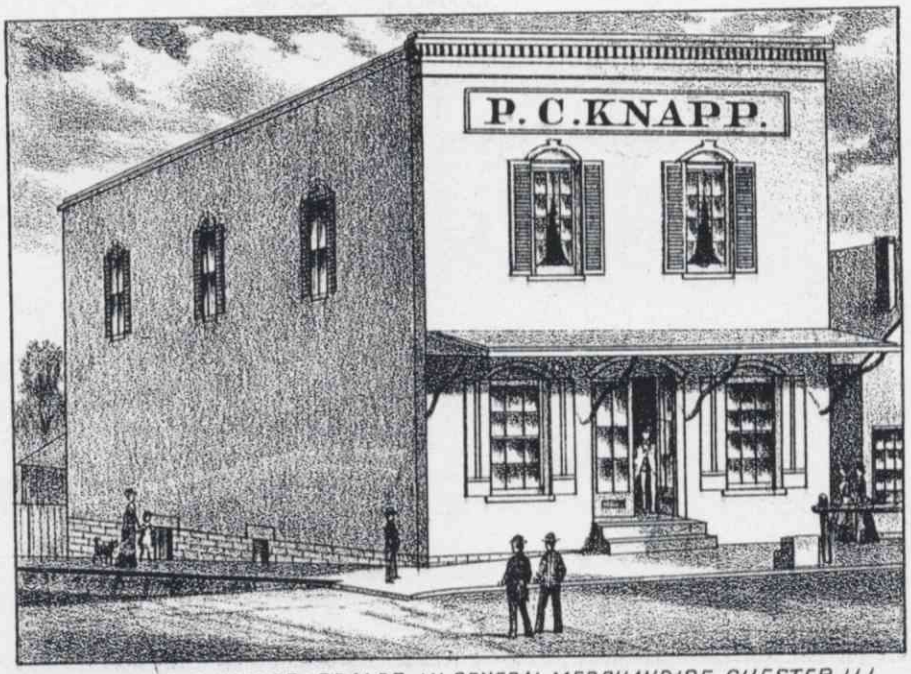
Mrs. Ibendahl has a replica of the Santa Maria ship, complete with the Virgin Mary's picture on display in the school room. The ship was found in the attic.

All the floors on the second floor are the original ones built when the house was new. The house today has nine rooms instead of the original 12.

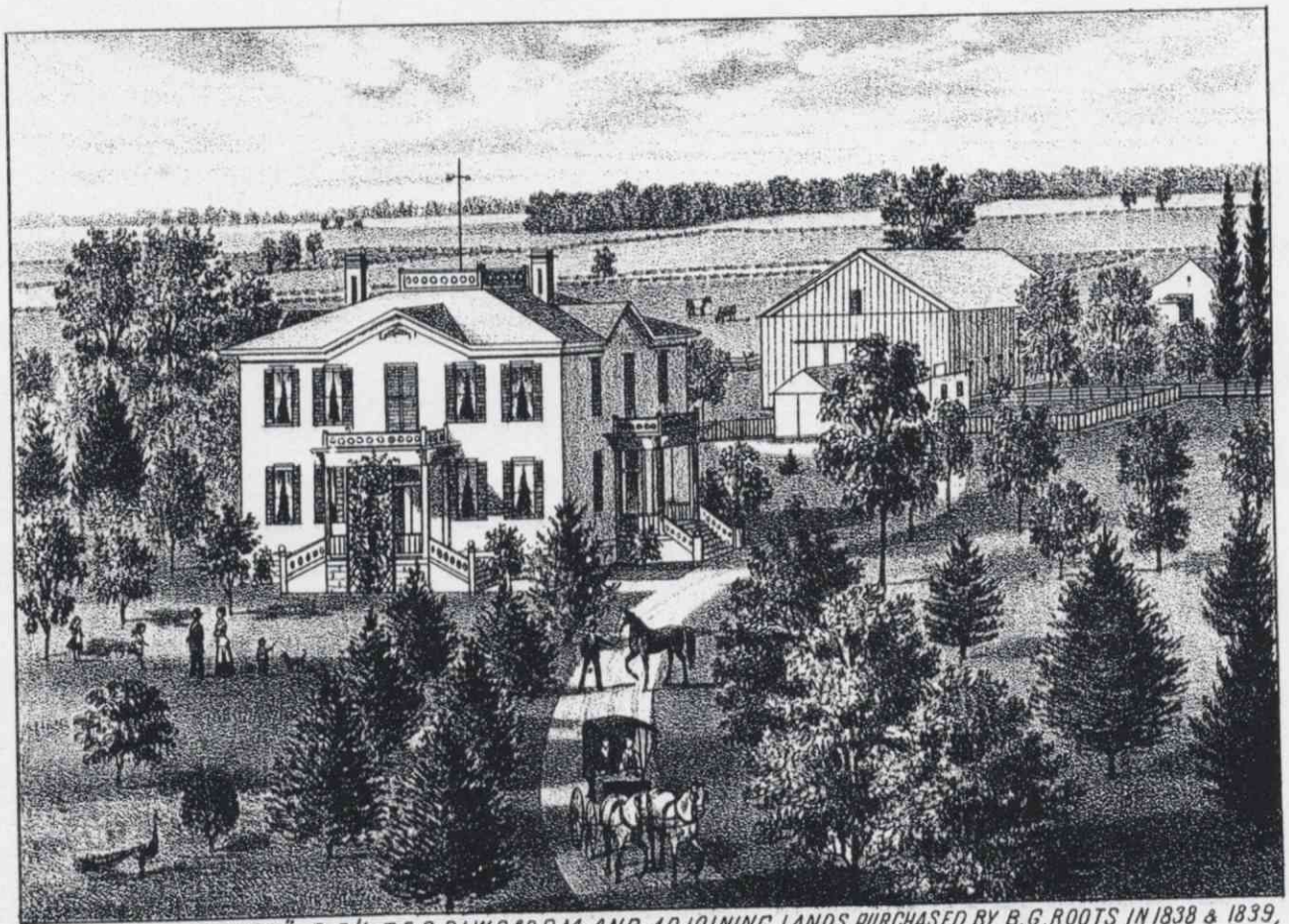
Steps in the attic lead to a widow's walk on the roof. A servant's staircase to the second floor and steps dealing to the attic and widow's walk have never been altered.

Nearly all the lamps in the Ibendahl home are made from old jugs, bottles and cream cans Mrs. Ibendahl found at the house or bought.

The Ibendahl's gave their 640 acre farm to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1985 when they retired from farming.



STORE OF P. C. KNAPP, DEALER IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE, CHESTER ILL.



"THE ROOTS PLACE"; S. E. ¼ T. 5 S. R. 1 W. 3rd P. M. AND ADJOINING LANDS PURCHASED BY B. G. ROOTS IN 1838 & 1839, WHEN RAW PRAIRIE AND BROUGHT TO ITS PRESENT CONDITION BY HIM & MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY viz. MARTHA S. HIS FIRST WIFE, ELIZABETH R. HIS PRESENT WIFE, P. K. & L. H ROOTS, HIS SONS, MARTHA E. HIS DAUGHTER, J. C. KIMSEY HER HUSBAND. SITUATED ON I. C. R. R. 2 MILES SOUTH OF TAMAROA.

has been eminently successful in his profession, and has succeeded by his zeal, studious habits and superior knowledge in building up a large and lucrative practice.

On the 14th of May, 1879, he was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie, daughter of Dr. James and Mary J. Murphey Ritchie. Her mother was the daughter of Hon. W. C. Murphey, one of the pioneers and prominent men in an early day of Perry county. He was the first sheriff of the county in 1827, and held many other offices of equal importance. Mrs. McCandless was born in Perry county. One child has been born to them, named Marion McCandless. Dr. McCandless is a strong and ardent believer in the principles of the Democratic party, and votes that ticket on all national and state occasions.

THOMAS F. PENWARDEN.

THE subject of the following sketch is of English parentage. His father emigrated from England to Canada in 1842, and there died in 1851. He was a seafaring man, and married Sarah Bromell, a native of Devonshire, England. At present she is a resident of Wisconsin. By that marriage there were four children; three sons and one daughter. Thos. F. was born in Elgin county, Canada, January 28th, 1843. In 1853, he was taken by his maternal uncle to Wisconsin. At the age of twelve years he shipped as a cabin boy on board a vessel plying between Chicago and Buffalo. He stayed on the lake, and also sailed on the ocean until 1861, when he returned and in company with others started for Pike's Peak, but hearing bad reports from that place turned back to Fort Leavenworth, and there he and his comrades enlisted for three years in the 3rd Reg. Kansas Vols. Cavalry, afterwards known as the 5th Kansas. Date of enlistment was July 11th, 1861. In 1864 he veteranized with his command and remained in the service until the close of the war. On the 25th of April, 1864, he was wounded at the battle of Mark's Mills, and left for dead on the field. He was taken prisoner, paroled and sent to Fort Leavenworth, and as soon as he recovered rejoined his command. He was also wounded at Pine bluff, and in South Carolina, when under Sherman in his famous march to the Sea, taken prisoner, sent to Libby, and was in the last lot of prisoners freed from that famous prison. He was mustered out and honorably discharged at Louisville Ky., in July 1865, having been in the service exactly four years. He was attracted to Du Quoin where his mother who had married again was living, and here engaged in mining, in which he continued until elected Sheriff of Perry county.

On the 2nd of December, 1866, he was united in marriage to Jane, daughter of Robert and Agnes Houston. She was born in Scotland and came with her parents to America in 1853. By that union there are three children living, whose names are Robert, Thomas and John Penwarden. He is an honored member of the A. F. & A. M. order and also a member of the Royal Arch Chapter. Both he and his wife are members of the M. E. Church. Politically he has always voted the Republican ticket. In 1880 he was regularly nominated for Sheriff of Perry county by the Republican party in convention assembled, and in November following was elected by a handsome majority. During his term of office it became his duty to execute the extreme sentence of the law passed upon James Vaughn. He obeyed the mandate of the courts and hung the prisoner on the day and hour fixed for the execution. That was the first judicial hanging ever held in Perry county. Mr. Penwarden made a most excellent Sheriff. No man ever held the office who executed the laws more faithfully, or guarded the interests and rights of the people more jealously. He is a man of the most generous impulses, warm-hearted and kind to a fault; one who would share his last crust or coat if possible with a friend. This trait is characteristic of Thos. Penwarden.

TAMAROA.

PERRY COUNTY.

THIS portion of the county occupies the extreme northeast, and is bounded on the north by Washington county, on the east by Jefferson and Franklin, on the south by Paradise and Du Quoin Precincts, and on the west by Pinckneyville and Beaucoup. The surface, though mainly level, and apparently flat, is quite elevated, and the drainage is good. The soil is principally of the prairie kind, and is well adapted to wheat-growing. Corn, though cultivated to some extent, is regarded as an uncertain crop, and less profitable than wheat, which is the staple. Other cereals are also grown. Though the precinct is composed of land mainly under cultivation, yet there is timber,—chiefly hard wood,—sufficient for the ordinary purposes of life. The principal water-courses are Little Muddy river, Little Beaucoup, and Rees' creek. The precinct has excellent railroad facilities, the Illinois Central extending through it from north to south, and the Tamaroa and Chester, connecting with the Cairo Short Line at Pinckneyville, terminating at the village of Tamaroa, in the central part. The principal industry of the inhabitants is agriculture, although coal-mining is carried on to some

extent. Cattle-breeding receives some attention. The Jerseys were introduced by H. J Cox in 1866. The Durham breed largely prevails.

EARLY HISTORY.

The dates of the earliest settlements in Tamaroa precinct are necessarily obscure, and are arrived at with difficulty and some uncertainty. But from information which we have good reason to credit, the first settlement was made about the year 1815 by the parents of the late Judge E. T. Rees of Cutler precinct, who settled near what is now known as Rees' creek, which took its name from that family.

Following this settlement was that of a family named Foster, about the year 1825. Benjamin Hammack, a native of Virginia, came into the precinct, in 1828, from Jackson county, and located on section seventeen, township four south, range one west. He had a wife and four children. When he arrived, he found located on the same section N. G. Curlee, who had preceded him only a few months. He and his family stopped with Abe Morgan, who lived on the Samuel Benson place, and who had located several years previous to 1828. Stephen Brown and family came soon after Hammack, and located in the same section. About 1829 came the Bland family, consisting of the elder John Bland and wife, John and David Bland, his sons, and their families, who came from Tennessee. Between the years 1828 and 1833 came James Johnson, Daniel Council, Jacob Walker Blackstock and Isaac B Walker, Peter Scronce, Richard Hull, James, Robert and Solomon Carpenter, from North Carolina; a family of Calloways, who settled on section 3; the Robinsons and Martin C. Lindsley. Benjamin Hammack located on section 20, twp. 4, range 1, in 1829. Abner Keith was one of the first settlers in the arm of the Nine Mile Prairie; William Dial located in Paradise Prairie; William Williams, George Sturtevant, old Joe Little, Henry and John Bridges, and Thomas Metcalf, Tennesseeans, came to the precinct about 1836. Richard Hull and Henry Bridges were notorious throughout that part of the county as great hunters. Isaac Lee, Abraham Lee, Samuel Etherton, Anthony Lafferty, Thomas Morris, William Dye, Samuel Dixon and Henry Cohan were among the early settlers of this precinct. Dr. J. S. Williams, a native of Kentucky, came to the county in 1840. He is now a practicing physician in Tamaroa.

Illustrative of the force of pioneer custom of those early days, we cite the incident related of Martin C. Lindsley, who lost the respect and esteem of all of his pioneer neighbors by the simple act of inviting them to a house-raising after breakfast, which they regarded as a gross violation of pioneer etiquette, too palpable to be forgotten, and ever after stamped him in their estimation as too selfish and stingy for their fellowship.

The first dry goods store in the precinct dates back to 1834, and was kept by Nathan G. Curlee, in a little shed-room ten feet square, on his farm, some three miles north of the present site of Tamaroa. Mr. Curlee was a prominent man in that precinct among the early settlers, acting as he did in the varied capacity of farmer, merchant, minister and post-master, at what, if we are properly informed, was known as Appleton post-office, about the year 1840. The first blacksmith who had his shop and did work in this precinct was Henry Bridges. Previous to his day (1830), the settlers had their smithwork done at Old Man White's in Mud prairie, in the edge of Washington county. In 1829 and 1830, Benjamin Hammack, a wheelwright, made truck wagons, stocked plows, and did such other work as the farmers stood in need of in the way of repairs. The early settlers (1824–'30) got their milling at what was known as Stilley's mill, north from Tamaroa, in the edge of Washington county. It was one of the old pioneer style of horse-mills, with cog-wheel attachment and buhrs about two feet and a-half in diameter, and, when run steadily all day, would grind about fifteen bushels of corn. When they ground wheat on it, the flour was bolted by hand. The crank, which was turned by boys, required regularity in the turning, in order that the flour might bolt evenly. Our informant, who had experience at the old bolt-crank, said: "When we got to turning irregularly, the old miller, Stilley, would yell out at us, 'turn that crank regular; I don't want your father fussing about the way that flour is bolted.'" The old Stilley mill was the principal institution of that kind for a number of years, and was patronized almost entirely by the neighbors for eight or ten miles around. It was finally purchased by one Lazarus Stuart, who removed it to the neighborhood of Coloma.

Subsequent to 1836, William Christian owned a little mill two and a-half miles northeast of Tamaroa, which did a considerable amount of grinding for the early settlers.

Among the first preachers in the precinct, were, James Walker and Rev. Barr, of the Methodist denomination, the latter the circuit rider. This was about 1831, previous to the organization of a church, when the meetings were held at the house of Benjamin Hammack. N. G. Curlee was for many years a minister of the Gospel, of the Methodist denomination, and preached in that precinct. One incident of Rev. Curlee's preaching, which occurred in 1840, has come to us in gathering up our scraps of the pioneer days. His subject on the occasion alluded to was "Abraham offering up Isaac." In the course of his sermon, becoming somewhat animated and wound up, he described the ram which the Lord provided as "Tied by a rope in the bushes, waiting for the sacrifice." The first local preachers were, Rev. Curlee, and "Father" Depositor, as he was familiarly known in those days. He organized the first M. E. Church in the precinct, at the Bland school-house, about 1831 or '32, and about the year 1833 or 1834, the school-house having been removed, the meetings were held at the house of Benjamin Hammack, where they were continued up to 1837. Isaac B. Walker, was the first class leader, and James Walker was a licensed Exhorter, who occasionally preached. In 1837, Wm Hammack sold out and moved to Holt's Prairie, where the church was still kept up at his residence, until he moved to the arm of Nine Mile, about '48 or '49, when the church went down, and was neglected. About the year 1831, and several years afterward, Shadrach Cheek, a hard shell Baptist preacher, called in those days,

the "Old Regulars," held meeting from time to time in the Stilley Settlement. The first Sabbath-school held in the precinct, was organized at the Bland school-house, by Rev. James Walker, Itinerant preacher, and Elder S. J. Borger, presiding Elder, about 1831. Nathan G. Curlee and Thos. O. Ellis, were Superintendents, and Benjamin Hammack and wife, Joseph Tilley and Elizabeth Sturdevant, were the teachers. The Sunday-school enterprise met with very strong oppositi n at that early day, from many, even the most pious professors, they regarding it as a questionable innovation upon the church, and as calculated rather to injure its influence than to add support to its cause.

The first school-house was the Bland school-house, built about 1832 or '33, and was named after old Grandfather Bland. It was about four or five miles north of Tamaroa. The first teacher was Jacob Walker. His qualifications as a teacher in Mathematics were expressed in the homely phrase, of "Cipher through Long Division." Some of his more advanced scholars, however, even doubled his capacity in that rule. The first school consisted of about twenty-five scholars — tuition, $2.00 a scholar, per quarter. In 1834, a second school was taught at the same place, by old Grand-daddy Johnson, as he was familiarly called. He was deaf and indiscreet, and failed to control the school, and it broke off before his term was regularly ended. Dr. Joseph Brayshaw, who lived near old Du Quoin, was the chief reliance of the pioneer settlers of this precinct, for medical aid, for a number of years. Dr. Wm. Weir was the first resident physician. Dr. Wall, of Du Quoin, practiced in the precinct, in 1840, and for several years thereafter.

The following were the first land entries in the precinct: October 11th, 1832, George Lipe entered N. E. ¼ of S. W. ¼ of section 18, thirty-four and forty-four hundredths acres. January 3, 1833, Wm. Hatcher entered E ½ of N. W. ¼ of section 5, seventy-five and seventy one hundredth acres. January 23d, 1833, Abraham Morgan entered S. W. ¼ of N. E. ¼ of section 18, forty acres.

VILLAGE OF TAMAROA.

After the Illinois Central railroad was located, Col. R. B. Mason, chief engineer, proposed to Mrs. Nelson Holt and Mrs. B. G. Roots, that they name the station which the company had decided to locate on the present site of the village of Tamaroa. At first they chose the name of "Kiawkashaw," after a tribe of Indians. They afterwards adopted the more polite and euphonious "Tamaroa," which was the French name of that tribe. The village was laid out on the N. E ¼ of section thirty two, T. 4, R. 1, by the Central Railroad Company, J. N. A. Griswold, President, and surveyed and platted May 14, 1855, by Nathan Holt, deputy county surveyor. After the village was first platted, it received three additions, one by the railroad company, one of thirty acres, by W. E. Smith, north of the original plat, and one of forty acres, by Joseph Cox, on the south. The present area of the village is one square mile. The first election for trustees was held April 4, 1859, and resulted in the choice of Thomas Sanders, R. H. Davis, S. A. Beard, F. B. Garner and M. S. Spencer. The village is pleasantly located, and has excellent railroad facilities. Among the railroad improvements is a large union freight depot and a passenger house, belonging to the Illinois Central Railroad Co. The company have a park extending along the railroad four hundred feet long and eighty feet wide. It is shaded by forest trees. The school-house is a two-story frame, and contains four rooms. The first public school building was erected in 1861. It was destroyed by fire in 1873, and the present one was immediately built. Prior to 1861, school was taught in unoccupied dwellings. The first village teacher was Miss Bonner. The school was graded in 1859–'60. The three church edifices are frame buildings, and belong respectively to the Methodist, the Presbyterian, and the Baptist denomination. The first in the order mentioned was built in 1858, the second in 1869, and the remaining one in 1874. The first house in the village was put up by the railroad company in August and September of 1854. It was a two story frame building, erected for a boarding-house. The first settlers of the town were Mrs. N. Holt, Samuel Ewing, William Garner, Samuel Eaton, F. P. and E. H. Simmons, Allen Pailier, D. C. Barber, and D. Saucks. N. Holt assisted in surveying and laying out the town, and was the first postmaster and station agent, the latter of which positions he still holds. We have no hesitation in saying Mr. Holt is the oldest station agent in this county, having performed its duties satisfactorily to the company for twenty-eight years in succession. Barber and Simmons put up the first store; Beard and Hague starting a store about the same time. The first resident physician was William E. Smith.

PRESENT BUSINESS.

Cox's Coal Mine is owned by Joseph Cox, and is leased and worked by P. White. The shaft is two hundred feet deep, through which are raised daily from seventy-five to eighty tons of coal. The machinery is operated by a thirteen horse-power engine. The vein is six feet, and fifteen men are employed in mining the coal.

Barber's Coal Mine is owned and operated by D. C. Barber. The mine is worked by a shaft two hundred feet in depth. The coal is raised by a thirteen horse-power engine from a vein six feet in thickness. Fifteen men are employed, and about seventy-five tons of coal are raised daily. The tunnel to connect these mines and to afford ventilation and safety for them is rapidly approaching completion.

Tamaroa Mill.—The original mill, built by B. P. Curlee and A. Anderson, was burned in 1861. These gentlemen immediately rebuilt the present mill, whose value, including equipments, is about $10,000. It has three run of burrs, two for wheat and one for corn, and its capacity is fifty barrels a day. The size of the main building is forty-six by forty feet. There is a shed attachment, forty by ten feet, and an engine room, forty by twenty feet. The motive is supplied by a forty horse power engine. The present owner and proprietor is Mr. H. W. Adams.

Tamaroa Custom Mill is owned and operated by J. H. Eaton. It is a combined saw and grist mill. The saw mill